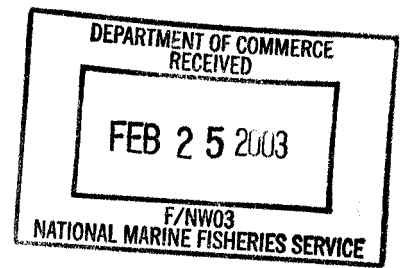


JOHN A. WATSON  
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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98107  
206-706-8259



Chief, Protected Resources Division  
NOAA Fisheries  
525 NE Oregon St..  
Suite 500  
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Chief, Protected Resources Division

I am writing to comment about the continuing endangerment of Puget Drainage Basin Orcas. These whales need effective protection immediately. This is especially important for the resident Puget Sound Orca populations.

Puget Sound at one time in the not too distant past supported a viable shellfish and finfish fisheries. Now as a result of the environmental degradation of Puget Sound these fisheries are almost non-existent. Some over fishing has occurred but the main factors in the decline of these fisheries has been the almost uncontrolled point and non-point sources of pollution such as POPs (persistent organic pollutants) from shore-side sources, heavy metals which have been dumped in the Sound, the lack of strong enforcement of shore-line protection, and the lack of protection of wetlands connected to the Sound. All of these factors have effected Orca reproductive processes as well as causing a decline in numbers of prey species for the Orcas.

The Orcas of course have been studied. They can be studied as they slowly disappear. These whales need immediate protection. Therefore I request the Fisheries Service step up to this challenge and provide the necessary protection for the Orcas before it is too late.

Thank you for your time in this matter

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Watson".

John A. Watson

cc: